

the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who desperately need their counsel. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring their tremendous accomplishments.

ENDING GLOBAL CORRUPTION

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2014

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article by Judge Mark L. Wolf in the July 23rd Washington Post. Entitled "Ending Global Corruption," the article describes the adverse effect that grand corruption by high officials has not just on matters of governance, but on the basic human rights of a nation's citizens. Judge Wolf proposes establishing an international court on corruption as a possible solution. This is a proposal that merits our close attention and investigation. We must find better means to address massive corruption, and the impunity and human rights abuses required to sustain it. I submit the article in its entirety.

ENDING GLOBAL CORRUPTION (By Mark L. Wolf)

It was hard to miss Daria at the World Forum on Governance in Prague in April. The 28-year-old lawyer and mother from Kiev was wearing a "Ukraine: [expletive] Corruption" T-shirt. Such a frank message was understandable. Indignation at "grand corruption"—the abuse of public office for personal profit by a nation's leaders—inspired Daria and many others to risk their lives in the Maidan protests that toppled President Viktor Yanukovich in February.

In too many nations, corruption is endemic at the highest levels of government. Then-U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan was correct in characterizing such behavior as an "insidious plague" in his 2003 statement upon the adoption of the U.N. Convention Against Corruption.

Corruption is extraordinarily costly, consuming more than 5 percent of the global gross domestic product. Developing regions lose more than 10 times in illicit financial flows than what they receive in foreign aid. Russia's corruption-fueled "shadow economy" makes up an estimated 44 percent of its GDP.

Corrupt governments also often provide havens for international criminals, including drug lords in Mexico and terrorists in countries such as Afghanistan and Yemen.

Nevertheless, the most serious consequence of grand corruption is that it destroys democracy and devastates the human rights that governments are constituted to protect. Countries recognized as among the world's most corrupt—including Somalia, Afghanistan, Sudan, Iraq and Syria—repeatedly violate the human rights of their citizens. The poor and powerless are victims of corrupt regimes throughout the world.

As Ukraine and Egypt exemplify, opposition to grand corruption is destabilizing many countries and, indeed, the world. International efforts to combat grand corruption have obviously been inadequate. Similar circumstances concerning the evils of genocide and other intolerable human rights abuses led to the creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2002. An International Anti-Corruption Court (IACC) is now equally necessary.

Grand corruption depends on the culture of impunity that exists in many nations. An

IACC would provide an alternative and effective forum for the enforcement of the laws criminalizing grand corruption that exist in virtually every country, while giving force to the requirements of treaties such as the U.N. Convention Against Corruption and the obligations of organizations such as the World Trade Organization. Like the ICC, an IACC would operate on the principle of complementarity, meaning that only officials from those countries unable or unwilling to prosecute grand corruption properly would be subject to prosecution. This would give many nations a significant incentive to strengthen and demonstrate their capacity to combat grand corruption.

An IACC would be comparable to the approach that has served the United States well. In the United States, we do not depend on elected state prosecutors to address corruption by state and local officials because such prosecutors are often part of the political establishment they would be called upon to police and, in any event, generally lack the necessary legal authority and resources. Instead, we rely primarily on federal investigators, prosecutors and courts to deal with corrupt state and local officials.

Similarly, an IACC would employ an elite corps of investigators expert at unraveling complex financial transactions and prosecutors experienced in preparing and presenting complicated cases. It would also include experienced, impartial international judges.

The IACC's impact would be enhanced if, like federal courts in the United States, it were also empowered to hear civil fraud and corruption cases. An international "whistle-blower" statute enforceable at the IACC would increase the resources that would be devoted to combating fraud and corruption and enhance the potential for restitution for victims.

Notably, an IACC should have strong support from the United States. U.S. companies generally behave ethically and, in addition, are significantly deterred from paying bribes by the threat of prosecution for violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. They would benefit from the more level playing field an IACC would create.

Finally, an IACC would provide the potential for more effective prosecution and punishment of corrupt officials who commonly abuse human rights. Fraud, corruption and associated money laundering can often be proved based on documentary evidence, which is easier to acquire than eyewitness testimony of victims of human rights abuses, who are unlikely to have knowledge of the criminal responsibility of their nation's leaders.

There are practical impediments to establishing an International Anti-Corruption Court and principled concerns to be addressed. But the status quo is intolerable. An IACC could erode the widespread culture of impunity, contribute to creating conditions conducive to the democratic election of honest officials in countries with a history of grand corruption and honor the courageous efforts of the many people, like Daria, who are exposing and opposing corruption at great personal peril.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took of-

fice, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,599,231,161,990.50. We've added \$6,972,354,113,077.42 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 405, I was unable to get back in time to vote due to my daughter being very ill.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

THE CHICAGO DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Marshall Law School in Chicago for spearheading a critical discussion about the needs and rights of older persons. Along with Roosevelt University in Chicago, John Marshall Law School has led the drafting of a model international convention to provide legal protections and guarantee human rights for older people. That model convention, the Chicago Declaration on the Rights of Older Persons, will be presented on August 1 before the 5th Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing at the United Nations.

According to Ralph Ruebner, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at John Marshall and a leader of the effort, "It is vital that the world's aging citizens receive comprehensive legal protections and support under international law. This proposed convention will go a long way in helping achieve this." The drafting of the document involved months of work by experts and advocates in Chicago and from around the world, including Australia, Canada, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Paraguay, and United Kingdom.

On July 10 & 11, 2014, the 21st Belle R. and Joseph H. Braun Memorial Symposium hosted by John Marshall Law School, together with East China University of Political Science and Law and Roosevelt University, brought elder law and policy experts from around the world to Chicago to discuss issues from social protection and income security to fighting elder abuse to health care and caregiving.

As co-chair of the House Democratic Caucus Seniors Task Force, I work hard every day to ensure that older Americans can remain productive, participate in their communities, and age with dignity. I also know the importance of ensuring that ageism and other forms of discrimination are addressed and that legal rights are incorporated within a comprehensive framework. The Chicago Declaration on the Rights of Older Persons embodies those concepts, and I hope that next week's